

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 DEAE-00 DHA-02 L-03 H-02
SY-05 PPTE-00 /024 W
-----062018Z 095477 /46
P 061911Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9544

UNCLAS MEXICO 0192

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CDES, MX
SUBJECT: MURDER VICTIMS IN STATE OF OAXACA

REF: STATE 000896; MEXICO 16286

1. EMBASSY SEES NO TREND OR PARTICULAR SCHEME IN ATTACKS ON AMERICAN TOURISTS IN SOUTH COAST AREA OF OAXACA. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN TWO MURDERS OF AMCITS DURING DECEMBER 1976 IN THIS AREA THE LAST REPORTED MURDER OF AN AMCIT IN THE STATE OF OAXACA OCCURRED 11/73 (JAMES HOWARD DALE). THE TWO MURDERS APPEAR TO BE AN UNFORTUNATE COINCIDENCE.
2. JUAN MANUEL CRUZ ACEVEDO, STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OAXACA, ADVISED THE EMBASSY ON JANUARY 5 OF THE ARREST OF FOUR SUSPECTS IN CALISS CASE THAT DAY. CRUZ SAID "THE FOUR WERE FOUND WITH WEAPONS AND HAVE NOT DENIED INVOLVEMENT IN CASE." MR. CALISS HAD APPARENTLY BEEN SLEEPING ON THE BEACH NEAR THE TOWN OF SALINA CRUZ, OAXACA AND WAS SLAIN IN A ROBBERY ATTEMPT. ONLY \$20 IN TRAVELERS CHECKS WERE FOUND WITH BODY. FULL POLICE REPORTS ARE TO BE SENT TO THE EMBASSY ASAP. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO COOPERATE WITH EMBASSY, HIS PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE MURDERS, AND HIS DESIRE TO PROTECT AMCIT TOURISTS. HIS REMARKS REGARDING GRAWFORD CASE (THE OTHER DECEMBER MURDER) TO BE FORWARDED TO DEPT. SEPTTEL.
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3. OAXACA HAS AN ESTIMATED PAOPULATION (1975) OF 2.3 MILLION. 73 O/O LIVE IN VILLAGES OF LESS THAN 500 PEOPLE. THE ILLITERACY RATE IS 42 O/O. OAXACA ONE OF POOREST STATES AND ONE OF THE LEAST INTEGRATED INTO MAINSTREAM MEXICAN SOCIETY. BECAUSE OF MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT THERE ARE COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS

WHICH COMPLICATE THE JOB OF THE POLICE. GOM OFFICIALS
ESTIMATE THAT 223,000 TOURISTS
VISITED OAXACA IN 1975. THE AREA OF THE
MURDERS, BOTH NEAR THE PAN AM HWY IN THE ISTHMUS OF
TEHUANTEPEC, IS ONE OF THE MORE POPULAR TOURIST AREAS
OF THE STATE.

4. THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE ADMITS TO AN
INCREASE OF 4.8 O/O IN CRIME IN SOUTH COAST AREA OF OAXACA
IN 1976. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REPORTS OF AN
INCREASE IN POLITICAL UNREST IN OAXACA AS WELL AS RE-
PORTS OF INCREASED GOM COUNTER ACTION. INSOFAR AS THE
EMBASSY IS AWARE, TOURISTS HAVE NOT BEEN AFFECTED.

5. IT IS THE OPINION OF THE EMBASSY THAT AS OF NOW A
TRAVEL ADVISORY IS NOT WARRANTED FOR THE STATE OF
OAXACA. THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE
SITUATION AND ADVISE DEPT. OF FINDINGS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MEXICO00192
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770006-0219
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770175/aaaacnvx.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8672b8dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 896, 77 MEXICO 16286
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3652885
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MURDER VICTIMS IN STATE OF OAXACA
TAGS: CDES, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8672b8dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009